

Life of



Chauncey M.
Depew

The five Great Brands of Cigarettes :

*Duke's Cameo Cigarettes,
Turkish Cross-Cut Cigarettes,
Duke Cigarettes,
Cross-Cut Cigarettes,
Preferred Stock Cigarettes.*

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Chauncey Mitchell
Depew.

Chauncey Mitchell Depew.

"About how many invitations to dine do you receive a day, Mr. Depew?" a reporter asked last summer.

"About how many invitations?" Well, let me see." Here the famous toaster hesitated a minute and continued: "Well, I think about four a day is a fair average—say fifteen hundred a year. But they are not all invitations to dine; many of them are merely to speak. Now, one day last week I received an invitation to address a finance club in Rhode Island, a commercial club in Kansas City, another in Pennsylvania, and one more in Washington—but in all these there was no ticket to a dinner. That was a poor day for dinners. Dinners usually run much better than that. I think I dined home that day."

"I suppose you receive many curious letters, Mr. Depew?"

“Curious letters!” Well, take this for an example:—“My dear Mr. Depew: I am a member of a club which proposes to give a dinner next week. I have got to make a speech; but, as speech-making is not in my line, I write to ask you to give me a few points as to what I should say in answer to the toast, “Grover Cleveland, our President.”” Now,” said Mr. Depew, “I should write and tell this man to get his speech from a cyclopædia, thereby following the precepts of the subject of his toast. What the people want is facts; they don’t care anything for a man’s opinion.”

This distinguished citizen, who may be said to be loved in every household—whose broad and manly utterances command respect wherever they have been heard or read; whose legs, glass or otherwise, are welcome beneath every man’s mahogany—was born in Peekskill, N. Y., on April 23, 1834. He is of French Huguenot descent, and was born in the old homestead which has been in possession of his family for over 200 years. He graduated from Yale in 1856, and studied law. In due course he was ad-

mitted to the bar, and began his active work at an exciting period in our political life. He served in the New York Assembly in 1861-2, and during the second session was Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. He also acted as speaker of the Assembly during a portion of the time. He stumped the State for Lincoln in 1860, and has taken an active part in almost every subsequent political contest. "In 1863 he was elected Secretary of State, but declined re-election in 1865. He has held various other offices, including those of Tax Commissioner of New York City and Minister to Japan, which he resigned very soon, to devote himself to his profession. In 1866 he was appointed attorney for the New York and Harlem Railroad Company, and when the Hudson River road was consolidated with the New York Central in 1869 Mr. Depew was again made the general counsel of the consolidated company."

"During the memorable contest in the Assembly after the resignation of Senators Conkling and Platt from the United States Senate, and in the elec-

tion of the successor to Mr. Platt, Mr. Depew was a candidate for 83 days, receiving over two-thirds of the Republican vote, but retired from the contest, that the election of Warner Miller might be assured."

On the reorganization of the management of the New York Central in 1882, Mr. Depew was made Second Vice-president; and on the death of James Rutter, June 14, 1885, he was elected to the presidency of the road. He is also President of the West Shore Railroad Company. "His successful directorship of railroads is largely due to the fact that he is master of all the details pertaining to the road and its policy, and zealously supervises its interests." He is President of the Union League Club of New York, and of the Yale Alumni Association.

Chauncey Depew has been successful as a lecturer; but it will be as a brilliant and ever acceptable after-dinner orator that his name will go down laurel-wreathed to posterity. He is the master of a clear Addisonian style, with an inexhaustible fund of genial, whimsical humor. But why describe

his style, or attempt to indicate his oratorical excellencies, when any number of characteristic specimens of his eloquence and wit are at hand. As he has himself said, "What the people want is facts; they don't care anything for a man's opinion."

Responding to the toast, "The Puritan in New York," at a New England Society dinner two or three years ago, Mr. Depew said: "Within forty-eight hours I was at the capital of the Puritan commonwealth addressing the original saints. (*Laughter.*) The difference between them and the article found here in New York is great enough for a discriminating library. (*Laughter.*) There the family fare so wholesome, nutritious and familiar to New England tastes burdens the tables, and the most exhilarating beverage is ice-water; while the Puritan who has passed through the metropolitan furnace would think that he did scant honor to the forefathers unless the banquet which he ate in their memory was cooked by the most famous and expensive of French chefs, and washed down by the most deli-

cate champagnes. (*Laughter.*) The difference is accounted for by the capacity of the Yankee to adapt himself to the necessities of his environment. In Egypt he is the general of the forces of the Khedive; in the Sandwich Islands he is the prime minister of the king; and a recent traveler says that in Ashantee he found him acting as the master of amusements in the court of his sable and savage majesty. (*Laughter and applause.*) His character is so magnificently grounded by tradition and by the teachings of home that he yields not to temptation, and he never falls by the way. (*Applause.*) The wrecks which strew the ocean of metropolitan excitement are not New Englanders. (*Applause.*) The secret of Puritan success is the spirit of unrest. * * * New York is proud of her Puritans. * * * When Mary Henry Ann fled from the fagot and the stake in Connecticut, where she had been convicted as a witch, the Dutchman in New York received her with hospitality and protection, because the Dutchman never believed that the devil would materialize in

a woman, or could be exorcised by flame. The ministers, the lawyers, the business men, who would have burned Mary Henry Ann in Connecticut, were of precisely the same blood as the lawyers, the ministers, the business men of New York, who are to-day the foremost in seeking for the truth and in asserting it at the head of every movement which liberalizes and ennobles. (*Applause.*) A friend of mine, stopping recently at a Washington hotel, sat beside a bride who had been a widow, and on her first wedding journey had stayed at the same inn.

"She said: 'John, pass me the butter.'

"The bridegroom indignantly replied: 'My name is not John, it is Charles.'

"She said: 'Excuse my mistake, Charles,' and then tasting the butter, said reflectively, 'but it is the same butter.' (*Laughter.*)

"So, while the persecuting bigot of 250 years ago is the most advanced liberal of to-day, the result is the natural evolution of a strong and comprehensive character, grasping great principles and fearlessly following them to their

results ; as willing to die as he was to kill in the olden time for the preservation of those things in State and church and society which he regarded as sacred and essential, and as ready as ever to-day to desert his business and attend to politics, or to shoulder his musket and march with the armies when they are again threatened."

At the last New England Society dinner, held at Delmonico's December 22, 1888, Mr. Depew replied to the toast, "The State of New York ; The City of New York," Among other brilliant utterances he said :

"In 1632 the Plymouth Council enacted that any man elected to and then declining an office should be fined thirty pounds. The influence of that statute upon the American people cannot be estimated. (*Shouts of laughter.*) There has been no time in a hundred years when a case under it could be successfully brought, and the descendants of its authors have created and governed most of the States, and directed the permanent policy of the nation. Elder Cushing said, 'the Pilgrims migrated

to Plymouth because, as the heathen would not come to them, they must go to the heathen.' They braved everything to go to them, and then to go for them. (*Laughter.*) The Dutchmen welcomed the Puritans with cordial hospitality. Their tolerant opinions permitted asylum to persecuted Protestants, Jews and Catholics. But while Pilgrims, humanized in Holland, protected the victims of Puritan intolerance, they advised them to move on—the witches to New York, and Roger Williams to Rhode Island. (*Laughter.*) The Puritan became a colonist—not to earn a living, find a fortune, or found a home. He had demonstrated his ability to hold his own in any community. He was in name and purpose a separatist. He could touch elbows with neither the pagan nor the Christian of his period. The Church of England was corrupt, with the power of the State behind it, and to free himself he abandoned friends and fortune, and fled to Holland. People who professed faiths which he believed born of the devil and leading to hell crowded upon him; Dutch Calvinism was

winding about him its rigid dogma, and he chartered the *Mayflower* and sailed to America.

"The Pilgrims caught cold on that bleak December day when they landed, and ever since they have sung psalms through their noses. (*Laughter.*) But their songs have always been devout aspirations for liberty on earth and the gates of heaven ajar. Upon their simple and sublime declaration in the cabin of the *Mayflower* for 'just and equal laws,' we have builded our constitutions and our statutes. (*Applause.*) It was principles ages in advance of their time, and the birth of modern democracy. (*Applause.*) The stern demand for just and equal laws shattered the power of Great Britain in America and inspired the Declaration of Independence. It broke the shackles of the slave, and illumined the fraternal spirit of the reconstruction of the rebels and their States. It gave freedom in religion and manhood suffrage. (*Applause.*) It dissolved masses and classes, and builded a State of sovereign citizens. (*Applause.*) It wrought into

the political life of the nation
the purpose of the Almighty,
as shown in the statement of
the origin of the race, 'God
created man in his own image,
in the image of God created
he him.'" (*Long-continued
applause.*)

Mr. Depew was a delegate to
the Chicago Republican con-
vention in June, 1888, and was
nominated for the presidency
of the United States by Sena-
tor Hiscock. He received 99
votes on each of the two first
ballots, and 90 on the third
ballot. After that he made a
brief manly speech to the con-
vention, withdrawing his name.
During his candidacy a song
was sung by his adherents in
Chicago, of which the follow-
ing lines afford a specimen :

"Oh, Paddy dear, just lend an ear, I've
welcome news for you:

A candidate for President is Chauncey
M. Depew;

The pride of Nature's noblemen, on him
we should unite;

We surely can elect him if we rally in
our might," etc.

CHORUS.

"So rally to his standard, boys;
He's staunch and tried and true;
The man to guide the ship of State
Is Chauncey M. Depew."

Mr. Depew possesses the won-

derful aptitude for making even his misfortunes accrue to his fame and popularity. When recently he hurt the Achilles tendon of his leg, not even the famous gold leg of Miss Kilmansegg acquired such notoriety. First of all it was swathed in plaster, and he told his little boy that the only difference between him and an image vender consisted in the circumstance that the one carried his plaster casts on his head, while he carried his on his leg. Then he got a glass leg made. The glass was put on thick, like mucilage, until there was a mass nearly an inch thick. Then the orator's agony began. "I had wanted to howl before," he said; "but when that glass cooled and contracted, I hadn't any breath to howl with. Poetry in all sorts of metres has been written to that leg." Dr. Depew said, "but outside of that it has not been without its advantages to me. It has kept me away from dinners. It has been all of the Carlsbad springs to me. I have been ready to howl sometimes, but for all that on an average I have worked eighteen hours a day in the last six weeks.

There was nothing else to do, and I am gratified when I think that the accumulations of several years are now cleared up. They never would have been if it hadn't been for this glass leg.

"It has also demonstrated the wonderful quirks of the mind. I had always been accustomed to walking up and down the room dictating my correspondence and other documents of interest to me. I found I couldn't walk, and therefore I couldn't dictate. Even when I could hobble about on a cane I couldn't dictate. You see, it wasn't the Depew gait, as I had to drag three pounds of glass after me, and I had to buckle down and do the best I could sitting. But one can get used to almost anything, and I finally came around to the new way."

Yale made Mr. Depew an LL.D. in 1887. Long may he wave!

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Histories of Poor Boys
WHO
have become rich,
AND
Other Famous People.

Alger
Anderson
Astor
Barnum
Bernhardt
Billings
Blaine
Booth
Buffalo Bill
Carnegie
Childs
Clafin
Cornell
Depew
Eads
Edison
Ericsson
Field
Gerster
Gladstone
Gould
Harrison
Hofmann
Huxley
Ingersoll

Irving
Jefferson
Kilrain
Longfellow
Materna
Meissonier
Millais
Modjeska
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Nilsson
Ole Bull
Parnell
Patti
Peabody
Poe
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PACKED IN

Duke's Cigarettes

